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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,801	10/22/2003	Jawed Asrar	17396/09169	6674

27530 7590 07/14/2006

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COLUMBIA, SC 29201

EXAMINER
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PRYOR, ALTON NATHANIEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1616

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/691,801

Applicant(s)

ASRAR ET AL.

Examiner

Alton N. Pryor

Art Unit

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**– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 42-47 and 57-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 58-67, 69-74, 76-85 and 87-92 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 42-47, 57, 68, 75 and 86 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/10/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 42-47,57,68,75,86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

For rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, the following factors must be considered (In re Wands, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (CAFC, 1988)):

- 1) Nature of invention.
- 2) State of prior art.
- 3) Quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure
- 4) Level of predictability in the art.
- 5) Amount of direction and guidance provided by the inventor.
- 6) Existence of working examples.
- 7) Breadth of claims.
- 8) Level of ordinary skill in the art.

See below:

1) Nature of the invention.

The nature of the invention is to a method of protecting plants and their from damage by pests comprising treating a seed with a composition comprising a nitroguanidine and at least one other insecticide listed in claim 42. Elected composition is dinotefuran (nitroguanidine insecticide) plus a biological / fermentation product.

2) State of the prior art and the predictability or lack thereof in the art.

The state of the prior art is that it involves screening *in vitro* and *in vivo* to determine which compositions employed in the method exhibited the desired pesticidal activities (i.e. which compositions can protect plants from pests). There is no absolute predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any pesticidal regimen on its face. The instant claimed invention is highly unpredictable as discussed below:

It is noted that the pesticidal art is unpredictable, requiring each embodiment to be individually assessed for pesticidal activity. *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 166 USPQ 18 (CCPA 1970) indicates that the more unpredictable an area is, the more specific enablement is necessary in order to satisfy the statute. Further, their mode of action is often unknown or very unpredictable and administration of the composition can be accompanied by undesirable side effects such as stunting plant growth which may eventually lead to plant death.

Thus, in the absence of a showing of correlation between invention comprising dinotefuran biological / fermentation products claimed and degree of plant protection, one of ordinary skill in the art is unable to fully predict possible results from the administration of the composition due to the unpredictability of the role of the huge number of pesticides set forth in the claims.

3) Quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure.

The quantity of experimentation needed is undue experimentation. One of ordinary skill in the art would first need to determine biological / fermentation products and then determine of these when combined with dinotefuran would effectively protect plants.

5) Amount of direction and guidance provided by the inventor.

The amount of direction or guidance present is found on page 53 where results are gathered from a composition comprising tefluthrin and acephate. No experimental results are provided for the claimed invention where a nitroguanidine is a required limitation.

6) Existence of working examples.

No working examples are provided for the claimed invention wherein a nitroguanidine is a required limitation.

8) Level of ordinary skill in the art.

The level of ordinary skill in the art is high. Due to the unpredictability in the pesticidal art, it is noted that each embodiment of the invention is required to be individually assessed for pesticidal activity by *in vitro* and *in vivo* screening to determine which compositions exhibit the desired pesticidal activity.

Hence, the specification fails to provide sufficient support of the use of the compositions of the claims for the protection of plants against damage by pests. As a result necessitating one of ordinary skill in the art to perform an exhaustive search to determine which method / compositions effectively protect plants from damage by pests in order to practice the claimed invention.

*Genentec Inc. V. Novo Nordisk A/S* (CAFC) 42 USPQ 2D 1001, states that:

“a patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for search, but compensation for its successful conclusion” and “[p]atent protection is granted in return for an enabling disclosure of an invention, not for vague intimations of general ideas that may or may not be workable”.

Therefore, in view of the Wands factors, and *In re Fisher* (CCPA 1970) discussed above, to practice the claimed invention herein, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have to engage in undue experimentation to test which compositions (dinotefuran and biological / fermentation products) protect plants, with no assurance of success.

### ***Double Patenting***

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 42-47,57,68,75,86 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1,2,20,21,28,42

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of U.S. Patent No. 6593273. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both USPN '273 and instant invention claim similar suggest matter. Asrar claims a method for protecting a transgenic corn against damage by pest comprising treating corn seed having transgenic event (cry 3 protein) with one or more pesticides including a nitroguanidine insecticide and biological / fermentation product. A seed treated by the method is produced. Asrar defines dinotefuran as a nitroguanidine pesticide and spinosad as the biological / fermentation product. See USPN '273 column 10 lines 62-64, column 11 lines 26-28. Asrar defines seed as including unsown seed. See USPN '273 column 13 lines 59-65. Asrar does not claim an invention wherein the nitroguanidine compound is required as in instant claims. However, based on claim 28 of USPN '273 one would have been led to select a nitroguanidine since claim 28 specifies the nitroguanidine insecticide. For this reason instant invention comprising a nitroguanidine plus spinosad is made obvious by USPN '273.

#### ***Election Status***

Elected invention comprising dinotefuran and biological / fermentation product is not allowable. See rejection above.

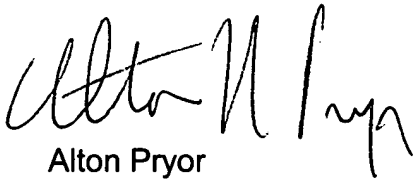
#### ***Telephonic Inquiry***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alton N. Pryor whose telephone number is 571-272-0621. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alton Pryor', is written above the printed name.

Alton Pryor  
Primary Examiner  
AU 1616